Past Pursuits

A Newsletter of the Special Collections Division of the Akron-Summit County Public Library

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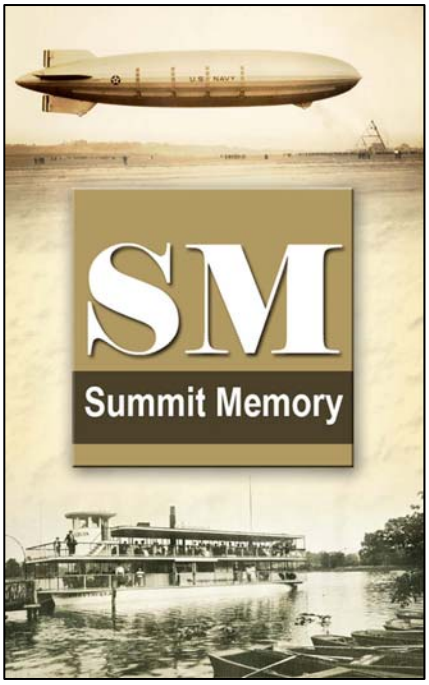
The Summit Memory Project Launches

By Judy James, Manager, Special Collections



What do blimps, Olympic champion Carol Heiss Jenkins, and Devo have in common? Photographs of all may be viewed in the Summit Memory Project, a new initiative to create an online "scrapbook" of Summit County history. Administered by the Akron-Summit County Public Library, this county-wide, collaborative project provides unprecedented, "one-stop" visual access to some of the remarkable collections of materials held by Summit County historical organizations. Visitors to www.SummitMemory.org may browse the exhibits and collections, or search for specific topics or images.

Discover our canal heritage through images from the Cascade Locks Park Association collection. Read a 20th Century African American newspaper from a collection held by the Summit County Historical Society, or enjoy candid contemporary images of Summit County from the Library's Ott Gangl Collection. Be sure to check back often, as we are adding new images and exhibits weekly! (continued on page 10)

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Akron's Airplane

By Michael Elliott, Public Service Assistant

Whistling death. That's what the Japanese called it. With a top speed of well over 400 mph and six .50 caliber machine guns, the single seat Corsair was arguably the best American fighter plane of World War II. As it entered into a diving attack, air rushing through the air intakes on the wings produced the distinctive "whistling" sound that no Japanese soldier would ever forget. Nearly 11,500 Corsairs were built during the war including 4,006 here in Akron as the FG-1, the "G" in military parlance signifying the plane had been built by Goodyear Aircraft.

The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor was still more than a year away when the first Corsair prototype was test flown in 1940 in Connecticut. The development of the new Corsair moved along at a brisk pace but with increased urgency after war had been declared. However, the numbers demanded by the Navy outstripped the Vought company's capacity to produce them, so two other companies with a history of aircraft production (Brewster Aeronautical in New York and Goodyear in Akron) were licensed to build the plane, Goodyear in February of 1942.

Construction began immediately on Plant D (south of the Airdock) where the plane was to be built. Tracings, dies, templates and the like were sent to Akron and emplaced at the new plant. In building the airplane, it was decided that a conveyor system would be utilized where the many subassemblies would be incorporated into the final product. The mile-long conveyor system crept along at an inch per minute past scores of assembly stations where hundreds of individual parts and thousands of bolts, nuts and rivets were added. If the monthly production quota was in danger of not being met, the conveyor system could be sped up and manpower added to the line. Each station on the line was initially equipped with an emergency shutdown switch that could be thrown if any one position got severely behind. This happened far too often, so the switches were locked off and additional employees were placed at any given trouble spot. As each plane was completed, it was rolled out to the tarmac where it awaited final adjustments and flight testing. It was here that Navy personnel corrected all minor defects and installed and test fired the machine guns at the firing range adjacent to plant D, no doubt rattling the nerves of many in the nearby residential area. The final stage of production found the newly completed airplane in the paint shop where a coat of Navy gray and the US insignia were added.

Corsairs in flight, from the U.S. Naval Air Station, Akron Collection. This image is available though www.SummitMemory.org at http://www.summitmemory.org/u?/airstation,22

The first Akron-built FG-1 Corsair was completed in February 1943 and passed its flight test with flying colors on the 26th of that month. Production increased steadily and was averaging nearly 200 aircraft per month by the beginning of 1944. Eventually, a backlog of completed planes proved problematic as there were simply not enough seasoned test pilots to keep up with production. The weather was also a major factor as there were many days during the winter months when flying was not possible due to the conditions. But with every opportunity each completed Corsair was taken out by

a test pilot on a two-hour "shake down" flight, with the pilots routinely flying over Detroit, Pittsburgh or some other city and then returning to Akron. Pilots stayed in constant contact with the control tower (since removed) that was especially constructed in 1943 atop the Airdock for the benefit of the planes being test flown. At 230 feet above ground level, this control tower had the distinction of being the highest in the country at the time. As each aircraft passed its test flight, only then was it accepted by the Navy and flown by civilian ferry pilots to Columbus from where it was dispatched to the battle zone. As the delivery operation became streamlined there were times when a new Akron built Goodyear Corsair was aboard an aircraft carrier and on its way into battle in the Pacific just four days after leaving Akron.

Having been originally designed as a carrier-borne replacement for the aging Wildcat fighter, post-production testing revealed several characteristics that initially made the Corsair unacceptable for carrier use. Consequently, land-based Marine Corps squadrons were the first to be equipped with the new design which proved to be superior to any aircraft the Japanese were then flying. After making several small improvements, the Corsair was ready for carrier service, and although sizable numbers did fly from the decks of U.S. carriers late in the war, a greater complement of Corsairs were flown from island bases. Due to the fact that the vast majority of Corsairs produced in Akron were constructed without foldable wings, nearly all FG-1s were land based. Many of those that were built for carrier use ended up in the Atlantic. Having acquired several through the lend/lease program the Corsair was also used extensively by the British and assisted in heavily damaging the German battleship *Tirpitz* (sister ship of the *Bismarck*), which was posing a threat to Allied shipping in the early months of 1944.

V-J day on August 14, 1945 saw the beginning of the end for production of the Corsair in Akron. On that day, all military contracts were cancelled and no more planes were begun. Layoffs began immediately, as many workers who arrived for their shift the next morning found themselves unemployed by lunchtime. The number of those laid off soon reached into the thousands as the last Corsair rolled off the Goodyear production line on September 6, 1945.

But the end of the war wasn't the end of the Corsair's association with Akron. Some area residents will remember the reserve U.S. Naval Air Station at the Akron Airport that functioned from 1948 through 1958. The airplane they flew – the Corsair. Many of these pilots who trained here in Akron went on to fly in the Korean War where the upgraded and rocket-equipped Corsair excelled in the role of ground support.

From the U.S. Naval Air Station Akron, Collection, this image is dated August 20, 1957. It is available through www.SummitMemory.org at http://www.summitmemory.org/u?/airstation,8

Even today it's still possible to see a Corsair in Akron. Goodyear's "World of Rubber" museum has a full-scale Corsair cockpit on display. Every year when the Akron Air Show is operating, there is always at least one Corsair in attendance. The Air Show makes it possible to see and hear a piece of Akron's history and realize what it must have been like at the Akron Airport during World War II.

To Akron from Down Under

Michael Elliott, Public Service Assistant

The Special Collections Division has been able to assist people from just about everywhere in their genealogical and historical research. Queries have arrived from across the U.S. and Canada and a few dozen from Europe. But of our many success stories, the one from the greatest distance belongs to Vicky Stojanovska of Australia.

Vicky Stojanovska of Sydney, Australia with Special Collections staff member, Michael Elliott.

The 33-year-old freelance journalist living in Sydney had always wondered what had become of her mother's great uncle Kiprian Todoroff, a native of Macedonia. Growing up, she had heard stories about him -- of how he would send gifts and money back to his extended family in Europe, including jewelry for Vicky's grandmother to wear for her wedding. But then, one day, the gifts and letters stopped coming, and the family feared the worst. Decades passed until one day Vicky decided to see if she could discover more about her distant uncle. Aware that he had been living in Akron in his later years, and by using available on-line databases, she was able to confirm that he was very likely a resident here when he died.

Her next step was to contact the United States from Australia. A series of emails back and forth ensued until it was discovered Todoroff died in the Summit County home in 1951. A copy of his death certificate and obituary were quickly sent to Australia, as was a description of the position of the gravesite in the East Akron Cemetery. I visited the gravesite and was able to locate a substantial headstone – a surprise considering Todoroff had no family here in Akron and was destitute at the end of his life.

After receiving the copies and learning of the stone, Vicky decided then and there that she would make a trip to Akron. So this past August, Vicky made the journey to Akron and was able to pay her respects to the man about whom she had heard so much.

Local Histories on CD-ROM

Among the information available on CD-ROM are PDF versions of several well-known local histories. Some of these histories have no or an incomplete index in their print form, so having electronic versions to search can be very helpful in your research. (When a print index exists, however, you should check it as well as searching the electronic version.) Below are some of the local history titles that we have available on CD-ROM.

Akron and Environs
by Oscar Eugene Olin

Akron and Summit County Ohio 1825-1928 v. 1-3
by Scott Dix Kenfield

Centennial History of Summit County, Ohio
by William B. Doyle

Reminiscences of Summit County
by Lucius V. Bierce

The Portage Path
by P.P. Cherry

The Western Reserve and Early Ohio
by P.P. Cherry

History of Summit County Ohio
by William Henry Perrin

Early History of Cleveland Ohio
by Charles Whittlesey

St. Bernard's Church

By Iris Bolar, Librarian

St. Bernard's Parish has long been spiritual home to German American Catholics in Akron. The parish was formed in 1861 after 23 families decided that a church was needed where local German immigrants could worship in their own language and preserve their cultural heritage. Prior to the formation of the parish, Akron German American Catholics worshipped in the predominately Irish parish of St. Vincent's.

Fund raising for the original church building began, and a gift of $500 was sent from King Louis of Bavaria. The honor of naming the new church was given to the parishioner who contributed the most funds to the project. That honor went to Bernardine Luhr, who named the church after her patron saint, St. Bernard of Clairvaux. The small brick church, located at the northeast corner of Broadway and Center Street (now University Avenue), was built in 1862, and the first Mass was celebrated on January 1, 1863. The church of 23 families had grown to close to 120 families. Rev. Louis Thiele was St. Bernard's first pastor. In 1863, a school was opened under the parish's second pastor, Father Peter Dannenhoffer.

A long period of growth and strong leadership began with the arrival of Father John Baptist Broun in 1866. The strong-willed Father Broun was considered the "guiding light" of St. Bernard's and served the congregation for 49 years. Under his leadership, the parish completed several projects: the building of a new school; the construction of a new church building; and the purchase of land for a parish cemetery.

The new school was completed in 1888. The building still stands on the corner of Broadway and University Avenue, but its size was greatly reduced with the removal of the center tower and upper floors. In its earlier days, the school was staffed by the Sisters of Notre Dame.

Later, the Sisters of St. Dominic taught in the school. Classes were taught in German, but English eventually became the teaching language. After years of decline in enrollment, the school was closed in 1977.

St. Bernard Parochial School, 1891.

In June of 1902, the cornerstone of the current church building of St. Bernard's was placed. The new church was built on the corner of Broadway and State Street. The celebrations included a parade of 400 Knights of St. John, the Goodrich Band, Knights of Columbus, members of local Catholic congregations and many other organizations. More than 7,000 people attended the festivities.

The architect, William P. Guinther, modeled the church after the Rhineland cathedrals in Europe, with a style described as German-Romanesque with Baroque influences. The stonework contract was secured by Frank Lukesh of Peninsula Quarries. It took 125 train-car loads of Berea sandstone to meet the construction needs for the church. Parishioners

donated 4,500 square feet of stained glass windows from Germany and statues from Italy. Murals and ornamental columns adorn the interior. Parish youth donated funds for the altar. The twin towers of the church continue to make it a landmark recognized by Akronites traveling downtown. Originally, the basement contained a chapel that held 850 people; today, that space is the church's social hall.

Saint Bernard's Church on Broadway.

When the $160,000 church was completed and consecrated in 1905, the parish had paid in full for its construction. The old church at Broadway and Center Street was bought by the congregation of St. John the Baptist in 1908.

Another project completed under the direction of Father Broun was the purchase of land on Maple Street for parish burials. St. Bernard Cemetery is adjacent to Glendale Cemetery.

In 1915, Father Joseph Paulus became the pastor upon the death of Father Broun. He was followed in 1922 by the appointment of Father Ferdinand Schreiber. Father Schreider led the parish for 31 years.

In the early post-WWII years, the population of the parish had declined from some 1,000 families to as low as 300 in 1949. The 1949 arrival of Father Edward Wolf as the new pastor brought a new push rejuvenate the parish. The church and school were renovated, and a new convent was built. The schedule of the church services was redesigned to make participation more convenient to downtown workers and visitors. Father Wolf brought over 800 post-war, displaced Germans to Akron through the International Relief Organization, assisting them in building a life here. In 1950, St. Bernard's became a territorial parish, going beyond its service to Akron's German American community. The parish population reached 5,400 people in 1962. Even with these efforts, the parish population fell victim to the movement of Akronites to the suburbs.

Msgr. Wolf retired in 1974. He was succeeded by Akron native Father John J. Mueller. Then in 1982, Father Paul E. Schindler became pastor. With the increase of Hispanics in Akron and his experience in the missions of El Salvador, Father Schindler saw that St. Bernard's could continue to evolve as a church for all people. In 2005, a shrine for Our Lady of Guadalupe, patron saint of the Americas, was donated to the church by parishioner Elias Guidino. Celebrations included a mariachi band, Latin food and dancing. Mass in Spanish is among the church's service schedule.

St. Bernard's location in downtown Akron places it in a unique position to also serve the spiritual needs of the increasing student population of the University of Akron and the more immediate needs of homeless of the downtown area. Hot meals, clothing collection drives and other outreach programs are some of its services to the community. In addition, the church has opened its doors as a location to hear choral music and gain inspiration during the First

Night festivities in downtown Akron on New Year's Eve.

The parish of St. Bernard's celebrated its 125th anniversary in 1986. In 1989, St. Bernard's was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Renovations and repairs to the historic church were made in the 1990s at the cost of $1 million dollars.

Through the years, the church has adapted to the changing needs and cultures of Akron residents. St. Bernard's remains an important spiritual institution in Akron and continues to open its doors to all.

If you would like to read more about the history of the St. Bernard's Church and Parish, the book *St. Bernard's Parish: to the Greater Glory of God: Akron, Ohio, 1861-1979* will provide additional information. Tours of the church can also be arranged.

Although the church's records are not open to the public for genealogical research, the Summit County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society compiled the book *St. Bernard's Catholic Church, Akron, Ohio: Cemetery Inscriptions and Funeral Records* to aid local researchers. Both of these books are available in the Special Collections Division. For general information on researching Catholic Church records, the September/October 2007 issue of the magazine *Family Chronicle* contains a helpful article for genealogists.

A Late Night Success

Special Collections held its third annual after-hours study session, Late Night at the Library, on Friday, September 28 for about 80 attendees. We are grateful for the participation of our co-sponors, the Summit County Chapter of OGS. Many attendees had been to Late Night before, but there were also several newcomers and beginning family historians. Lots of new discoveries were made and we were pleased with the great turnout. We are looking forward to seeing everyone at Late Night at the Library 2008!

Summit County's WWII War Brides

By Cheri Goldner, Librarian

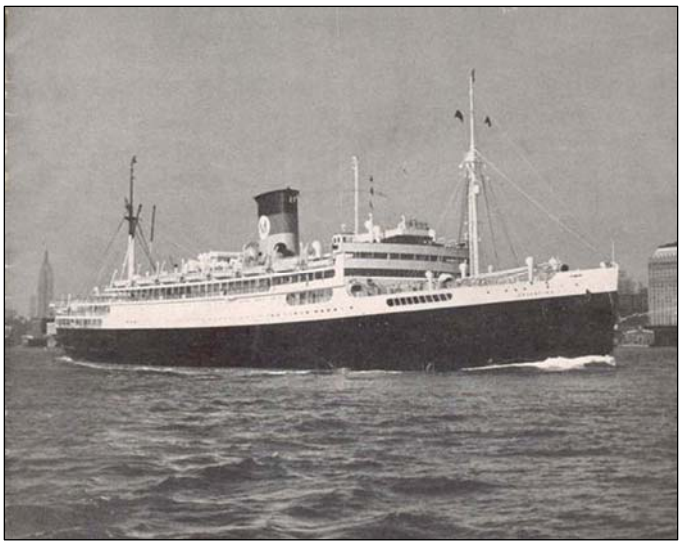
As you may have read in previous issues of *Past Pursuits*, Summit County has welcomed a number of different groups throughout its history. Included among these are Italian, German and Irish immigrants, as well as African Americans, West Virginians and Connecticut Yankees who migrated here from elsewhere in the United States. The heartiest of these welcomes, however, may have been for a more recent group of arrivals—the war brides of World War II.

Two pieces of legislation allowed for this particular wave of immigration. Congress passed the first of these on December 28, 1945. Commonly known as the "War Brides Act," it allowed for the admission of alien spouses and minor children of members of the armed forces. Six months later, on June 29, 1946, Congress passed the GI Fiancées Act, which granted those engaged to be married to members of the armed forces temporary admission for three months, conditional upon their immediate marriage.

Within months, a military movement dubbed "Operation War Bride" began bringing GI brides to U.S. shores. On February 4, 1946, 456 British war brides and 170 children arrived in New York on the Army transport *Argentina*. Days later, the luxury liner *Queen Mary* brought more than 2,300 wives and children to New York, where brides' trains were waiting to carry some of them to their new homes in the Midwest and far west. Still more arrived aboard a Liberty ship in Philadelphia a few days after that. In all, it is estimated that nearly one million foreign spouses of U.S. service personnel came to the United States during and after World War II.

The journey to their new homeland was not always pleasant, with many experiencing seasickness, but it also had its benefits. An English war bride arriving in Akron on February 5, 1946 explained that she, like many of the women on board, ate too much during the voyage to the United States. "You see

we've been living on toast and jam and tea for days over there. Every time I see something we haven't had, I feel like grabbing it. I am still waiting to eat my first banana. But the apples on shipboard were wonderful."



*The **Argentina** of 1946*

Other brides recall overindulgences of a different sort. In a recent book by Catherine Dyson entitled *Swing By Sailor: True Stories from the War Brides of HMS Victorious*, one Australian war bride traveling with her English husband remembers that finding a "nookie hole" was difficult on board because every spot was already occupied. "Our secret spot was in one of the gun turrets," she explains, "Being a gunner, Eddie knew."

Some of those war brides arriving in New York on the *Argentina* and *Queen Mary* and in Philadelphia on the Liberty ship were bound for Summit County, and the *Akron Beacon Journal* is full of stories about and photographs of them and their families. So enthusiastic was the community's welcome for these new residents, the *Beacon* hosted a "War Brides' Dream Day" on Wednesday, February 20, 1946. Many local businesses and organizations contributed goods and services, all with the goal of treating the area's war brides like "queens for a day."

On Dream Day, drivers picked up those women with young children around 9 a.m. A police escort, complete with "screaming sirens and all," accompanied them to the Mayflower Hotel for the first activity of the day, a baby show and contest. One of the judges, vice-president of Seiberling Rubber Co, C. W. Seiberling, presented each baby with a pair of rubber pants. Following the contest, the babies were taken back home and the women returned to the Mayflower for a luncheon in their honor. The lunch included a broadcast by WAKR, a welcome and presentation of the keys to the city by Mayor Charles Slusser, and the presentation of numerous gifts from local merchants.

After the luncheon, the women went on an automobile tour of the city and were then taken to the YWCA, where the International Institute hosted a reception in their honor. The women then met up with their husbands at the Fairlawn County Club for an event sponsored by the Junior League. Drivers next took the women for "a real American treat," hamburgers at Swenson's Drive-in stand at West Market and West Exchange Streets.

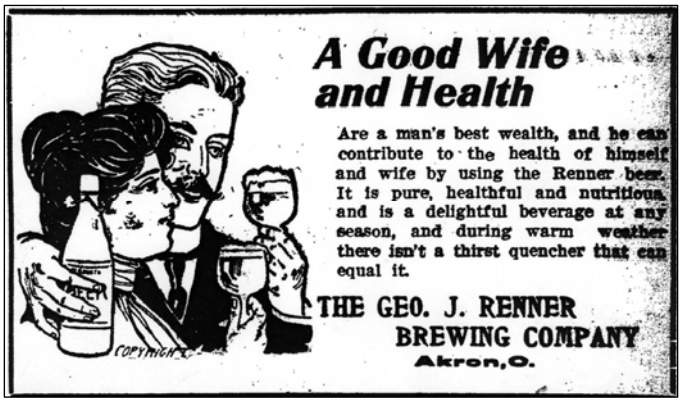
Next, the couples were dropped off at home to ready themselves for a dinner dance to be held at the Mayflower Hotel. The most heartfelt moment of evening event came when WAKR broadcast an interview with each woman, making recordings of the interviews so that the could be sent home to family. Again, the brides were treated to gifts donated by local merchants, including the chance to apply for one of three house lots in Akron donated by veteran realtor W.A. Johnston, the man responsible for laying out the city of Barberton. The nearly thirty brides who participated in the event hailed from England, Scotland, Wales, Australia, France, Morocco, Iran, Iceland, and New Zealand.

While it is doubtless one of the most carefully planned and widely publicized gatherings of war brides in Summit County, War Brides' Dream Day was just one of many gatherings. Brides from several countries formed clubs that met on a regular basis, giving them the opportunity to connect with other women who had left their homeland to pursue new loves and lives in the United States.

The Australian war brides were the first foreign war brides to come to Summit County, having arrived more than two years before the wave that came as a result of the War Brides Act. They formed their own club and met weekly for several years. A *Beacon* article on February 3, 1946 included a photograph of seven of the club's members at one of their meetings.

While the Australian club had disbanded by the time the *Beacon* published a Dream Day follow-up on November 6, 1948, an English brides' club was still active and holding meetings at the YWCA. An article later that month, appearing on November 27, featured another group of war brides, those from Japan. While the article focused on two particular Japanese war brides, another from March 29, 1961 reported that the local Asiatic Wives Club boasted 85 members. Most of the club members were Japanese, but there were also two Chinese and one Okinawan. On February 15, 1949, the *Beacon* reported the forming of a new German war brides club in the Ravenna area.

The local World War II war brides clubs may be a thing of the past and the population of these war brides diminishing. Thanks to the enthusiastic coverage by the *Akron Beacon Journal* and other newspapers across the county, the publication of several books on the subject, and the efforts of the World War II War Brides Association, their stories will live on and will likely be joined soon by those of a new generation of war brides.


A Good Wife and Health
Are a man's best wealth, and he can contribute to the health of himself and wife by using the Renner beer. It is pure, healthful and nutritious, and is a delightful beverage at any season, and during warm weather there isn't a thirst quencher that can equal it.
THE GEO. J. RENNER BREWING COMPANY
Akron, O.

Advertisement appearing in the ***Akron Daily Democrat*** *on May 22, 1902*

New York Times Historical Newspapers Database

Mary Plazo, Librarian

The Akron-Summit County Public Library recently acquired a subscription to the historical newspapers database of the *New York Times*. This database can provide a wealth of information, not only for genealogical research but for any historical research. When you visit our site www.akronlibrary.org, click on the link to Databases and Websites. You will see an alphabetical list of all of the research databases available, including *ProQuest Historical Newspapers : The New York Times (1851-2004)*.

After clicking on the link, you have options for basic and advanced searching. A Basic search requires only a keyword and a date range. The Advanced search allows you to combine terms and specify where each term should appear in the article, such as document text, dateline or author. This search also requires a date range. Available from both pages are links for Search Tips and More Search Options.

On the Publications tab, you can search the earliest edition of the newspaper, which was called the *New York Daily Time*s from 1851-1857, or the current edition, that we now know as the *New York Times* from 1857 to the present. On the last tab, My Research, is a list of your stored searches. You can also mark the documents that you find useful (only a maximum of 50) and list them all on the My Research tab.

You also have the option to search several non-historical major national newspapers. This database houses modern issues from the 1980s forward. The exact dates included depend upon the publication being searched. Unfortunately, you cannot search both the historical newspaper database and the non historical database at the same time. You will see this disclaimer when you choose to search in the databases.

Whether checking the newspaper for family research or maybe some other significant event in history, it is definitely worth using this database as one of your investigative tools.

On Line Records Update

The City of Hudson has published information to their Web site for five cemeteries within their limits. Visit http://www.hudson.oh.us/departments/cemeteries/index.asp to read brief histories of the cemeteries and to search a database of the burials. From the link above, select the NEW Genealogy Search page. Markillie Cemetery, St. Mary's Cemetery, Olde Hudson Township Burying Ground, Draper Cemetery, and O'Brien Cemetery are included.

Early versions of the *Akron Beacon Journa*l (*Summit County Beacon*) are now available online. Visit http://www.ohio.com/archives to search the *Akron Beacon Journal* from 1877-1889 for free. Although the search is free, there is a charge to download the article. Subscriptions range from $9.95 for one day to a monthly charge of $19.95.

Search millions of original documents online through Footnote. Visit http://www.footnote.com/ to search the *Pennsylvania Archives*, New York naturalization records and much more. Many publications are free to search, save, and annotate but several are available only to premium members who pay $59.95 per year.

Cleveland Restoration Society Extends Services to Akron

Homeowners in Akron's West Hill and Highland Square neighborhoods can now benefit from the Heritage Home Program of the Cleveland Restoration Society & Preservation Resource Center of Northeast Ohio. This collaboration with the City of Akron, KeyBank, and the Ohio Housing Finance Agency provides technical advice and low-interest financing for the maintenance and repair of older homes. In July, the Cleveland Restoration Society opened a Summit County regional office in the old No. 3 Fire Station at 60 South Maple Street. For more information visit their Web site: http://www.clevelandrestoration.org/summit.htm or contact Sara Hobbs, 330.814.3400.

Summit Memory (continued)

Summit Memory is also a partner in Ohio's Heritage Northeast, which brings together, in one searchable database, digital collections from libraries, universities and other historical organizations throughout Northeastern Ohio.

The Summit Memory Project is funded by a grant from the Robert W. Little Foundation. Mr. Little (1917-2000) served as a librarian at the Akron-Summit County Public Library for nearly 30 years. Before coming to the Library, he worked at the B.F. Goodrich Company and attended the University of Akron, where he received a degree in history. This World War II veteran enjoyed local history and collected many books, artifacts and documents about Summit County. It is through his generosity that these historic items are available to the public.

For more information about the Summit Memory Project or for details about how to participate, please contact Project Manager Joanne O'Dell in the Special Collections Division at jodell@akronlibrary.org or 330.643.9064.

On Exhibit: Lighter Than Air

Third Floor, Special Collections

2007 marks the 55th anniversary the Akron-based Lighter-Than-Air Society (LTAS). Founded in 1952, LTAS is devoted to "*the study of the history, science, and techniques of all forms of buoyant flight.*" The organization maintains a large collection of artifacts at their headquarters at Canal Place, as well as a collection of archival materials at the University of Akron. Their collection of more than 1,200 books on every aspect of lighter-than-air is housed in the Special Collections Division. During the months of November through January, a selection of these fascinating items will be on view in the third floor Special Collections exhibit case. For more information about the Lighter-Than-Air Society, including a calendar of events, historical photographs, and membership information, visit their Web site: www.blimpinfo.com

Holidayfest 2007 at Lock 3

Since December of 2004, Akron has had the opportunity to embrace the holiday spirit and host Holidayfest at Lock 3 Park in downtown. Another tradition has been to bring in a very talented group of artisans from our sister city, Chemnitz, Germany, to show off their craftsmanship and culinary talents. This little piece of Germany brought to Akron is known as the Chriskindl market. The holiday market is similar to ones that are held in many towns all over Germany and is a real treat for the season's shoppers.

Holidayfest begins Friday November 23rd and runs through New Year 's Eve, December 31st. This special holiday celebration draws thousands of visitors every year. Once again, you'll be able to enjoy the holiday lighting spectacular show, the "Welcome Santa" holiday parade, and ice skating at the rink at Lock 3. Don't forget to join us in welcoming the new year through Akron's First Night. For more information, visit http://www.holidayfest.org/.

New! Internet Genealogy Class

As most genealogists know, not everything is on the Internet, but more and more sources are appearing every day. We are offering a new class, *An Introduction to Internet Genealogy*, to our winter and spring lineup of classes to help the beginner navigate the basic online genealogy resources and to draw attention to a few of the lesser-known sites. Topics covered include our subscription databases, such as *Ancestry Library Edition* and *Heritage Quest*; free Web sites; local sites of interest, and criteria for evaluating web resources. Classes run about two hours, and each class covers the same information. Classes meet in Computer Lab 2 on the first floor in Main Library on:

Tuesday, January 15, 6:30-8:30 pm
Saturday, February 9, 10 am-12 pm
Tuesday, March 4, 6:30- 8:30 pm
Saturday, March 22, 10 am-12 pm

For more information on upcoming sessions or to sign up, please call 330.643.9030.

Local History Events

Home for the Holidays
Summit County Historical Society
Wednesdays-Saturdays until December22, 1-4 pm
Every room of the Perkins Stone Mansion and Wash House will be transformed for the holidays by local professionals of historic and contemporary interior design. Tickets are $7 for adults at the door. For more information, please see 330.535.1120.

Deck the Hall
Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens
December 14-23, 6:30-8:30 pm
December 26-30, 6:30-8:30 pm
An annual holiday celebration, this year's theme is *Babes In Toyland*—select rooms of the historic Tudor Revival mansion will be decorated to reflect this theme. The estate's grounds and gardens will offer a winter wonderland of lights. There will be a giant poinsettia tree and holiday model train on display in the Corbin Conservatory. The Carriage House Museum Store will be open with specially selected gift items, and the Café will serve hot chocolate, cookies, and other holiday fare. For more information, please call 330.836.5533.

Historic Holiday Trolley Tours
Lock 3 Live
Saturday, December 1-29, 11 am
Enjoy a 50-minute tour of historical downtown Akron aboard the Holidayfest Trolley. Tickets are available for $1 per person at the Lock 3 Information Desk. The trolley departs from the Lock 3 trolley stop on Main Street. For more information, please call 330.375.2871.

Old German Christmas
Western Reserve Historical Society
Saturday, December 15, Noon-5 pm
Come enjoy authentic German food, music, and more at the Loghurst Farm Museum in Canfield. Presented in cooperation with Maennerchor of Youngstown, Ohio. Regular Loghurst admission applies ($5 for adults, $4 for students and seniors, free to WRHS Members and children 5 years and younger.). For more information, please call 330.533.4330.

***Early Akron's Industrial Valley* Book Signing**
Cascade Locks Park Association
Saturday, December 15, 12-3 pm
This is a great opportunity to have a winter walk along the canal, then stop in and find a great gift for the canal, towpath or local history buff in your life. Get the recently released book on the history of the Cascade Locks and meet author Jack Gieck. For more information, please call 330.374.5625.

Holiday Lantern Tours
Western Reserve Historical Society
December 20, 21, 22
Hale Farm & Village's favorite holiday event returns with a leisurely candlelight tour around the Village of Wheatfield back in time to the year 1862. Guests visit the homes around the village green and gain insight into holiday celebrations during the Civil War era. Reservations are required. Please call 330.666.3711 for more information.

Sas'y Solstice Celebration
Scottish American Society
Friday, December 28, 6 pm
Join us at Lions Lodge in Cuyahoga Falls. Dreama Powell will play the Celtic Harp during the Silent Auction, followed by the Pipers Call to Dine at 6:45 and the Haggis Presentation. The buffet dinner begins at 7 pm with diners contributing a covered dish item. Brian McElhiney will play the pipes, Bill Kennedy will be our emcee and will perform "Ode to the Haggis." The Tigh na Creige Dancers will perform. Cost is $3 per person and reservations are required. For more information, please call 330.882.0342.

At War for the Holidays
Western Reserve Historical Society
Saturday, December 29, 1-4 pm
Dr. Ed Pershey will introduce the oral history aspects of the *WWII: Up Close & Personal* exhibit, highlighting some of the holiday memories present in the exhibit. He will lead a discussion about wartime holiday traditions, and visitors are welcome to share their holiday reminiscences. For more information, please call 216.721.5722.

Genealogy Events

Introduction to Internet Genealogy
Special Collections
Tuesday, January 15, 6:30-8:30 pm
Lean about genealogy databases that are available through the library, as well as how to find and evaluate many popular free Internet genealogy Web sites. As the emphasis will be on using electronic resources, basic computer skills are recommended. This workshop meets in Computer Lab 2 on the first floor of the Main Library. For more information or to sign up, contact Special Collections at 330.643.9030 or speccollections@akronibrary.org.

Genealogy Swap Meet
Summit County OGS
Saturday, January 19, 1-3 pm
Join us at the Main Akron-Summit County Public Library to swap anything related to genealogy. Bring magazines, books, maps, CDs, newsletters, etc. Who knows what treasures will be exchanged? A question and answer session will follow.

Introduction to Internet Genealogy
Special Collections
Saturday, February 9, 10 am-12 pm
Lean about genealogy databases that are available through the library, as well as how to find and evaluate many popular free Internet genealogy Web sites. As the emphasis will be on using electronic resources, basic computer skills are recommended. This workshop meets in Computer Lab 2 on the first floor of the Main Library. For more information or to sign up, contact Special Collections at 330.643.9030 or speccollections@akronibrary.org.

Researching Underground Railroad Ancestors
Hudson Genealogical Study Group
Saturday, February 9, 9:30 am
Join us to discuss how to research your ancestors who participated in the Underground Railroad. Led by Carey Steele, the meeting is held in the Flood Family meeting room of the Hudson Library & Historical Society. For more information, please call 330.643.6658.

Genealogy Lock-In
Hudson Library & Historical Society
Hudson Genealogical Study Group
Friday, February 15, 5:30 pm-Midnight
Join us for an evening of Genealogy Research after hours at the Hudson Library & Historical Society. Hosted by Gwen Mayer. For more information, please call 330.653.6658.

Civil War Families of Summit County, Ohio
Summit County OGS
Saturday, February 16, 1-3 pm
The chapter's new Civil War Heritage Society will be highlighted at this meeting. This workshop will focus on researching and proving your Summit County ancestor's Civil War service and is led by Michael Elliott of the Special Collections Division. The meeting is held at the Akron-Summit County Main Library. For more information, please contact summitogs@yahoo.com.

Introduction to Internet Genealogy
Special Collections
Tuesday, March 4, 6:30-8:30 pm
Lean about genealogy databases that are available through the library, as well as how to find and evaluate many popular free Internet genealogy Web sites. As the emphasis will be on using electronic resources, basic computer skills are recommended. This workshop meets in Computer Lab 2 on the first floor of the Main Library. For more information or to sign up, contact Special Collections at 330.643.9030 or speccollections@akronibrary.org.

Exploring & Evaluating Genealogy Software
Summit County OGS
Saturday, March 16, 1-3 pm
Have you wondered which genealogy computer program to purchase? Have we got a meeting for you. After a comparison of several programs, we will break up into small groups to look at aspects of the program. The meeting is held at the Akron-Summit County Main Library. For more information, please contact summitogs@yahoo.com.

We would like to thank the following for their generous donations:

Akron Oasis for video recordings and documents produced by Akron Oasis

Bicentennial Committee of Tallmadge, Ohio for copies of *Memories of Tallmadge: Recalling Our Past; Celebrating our Bicentennial*

Ima Gene Boyd for 1874 map of Springfield Township

Lindy Lutz Cash for Summit County veterans burial record files from the estates of her father, Robert Lutz and grandfather, Raymond Lutz

Cuyahoga Portage Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution for *American Treasure: the Enduring Spirit of the DAR*

Gary Felsinger for materials pertaining to Summit County's musical history

Rosemarie Foord for three East High School yearbooks

Jeanne Latham for copies of William Latham's research regarding St. Vincent's Cemetery

Medina County Genealogical Society for CD-ROM: *Tombstone Inscriptions from the Cemeteries of Medina County, 1983*

Progress Through Preservation for ten PTP House Tour booklets

Ted Shell for Induction Ceremony programs for the Summit County Boxing Hall of Fame

Summit County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society for *Lest We Forget: Sixty + Unique Summit County, Ohio Cemeteries.*

Patricia Zonsius for St. Paul's Episcopal Church Sesquicentennial program and centennial history of the Men and Boys Choir

New to the Collection

Delaware

Delaware's genealogical abstracts from newspapers: Volume I: deaths from the Delaware Gazette, 1854-59, 61-64 (1860 not available)
A history of the original settlements on the Delaware and a history of Wilmington
Marriages from the Delaware Gazette, 1854-59, & 1861-1864

Illinois

Chicago & Cook County: a guide to research

Kentucky

Jessamine County, cemetery records, Volume 2: Family cemeteries, Locust Grove, Macedonia Church, Ebenezer Church, Keene
Lexington city cemetery, Fayette County, Lexington
Maple Grove Cemetery records, Nicholasville
Versailles city cemetery, Woodford County
Woodford County, colored marriages, 1866-1900
Woodford County, marriage index, 1722-1899
Woodford County, will book abstracts

Maine

The probate records of Lincoln County, 1760-1800
Records of the First and Second Churches of Berwick, Maine
Vital records of Dixmont, Maine
Vital records of Etna, Maine, prior to 1892
Vital records of Lisbon, Maine, prior to 1892
Vital records of Troy, Maine, prior to 1892

Maryland

Obstetrical casebooks of Dr. Ferdinand E. Chatard: an alternative genealogical resource for Baltimore City, Maryland, 1829-1833

Massachusetts

Essex County deeds, 1639-1678: abstracts of Volumes 1-4, copy books, Essex County
A guide to Berkshire County, cemeteries
A guide to cemeteries in Essex County
Historical and genealogical atlas and guide to Barnstable County, (Cape Cod)
Marriages in Savoy, Massachusetts to 1865

New Hampshire

Journals of Enoch Hayes Place, 2 vols.
New Hampshire families in 1790, vol. 1
Vital records, 1790-1829, from Dover, New Hampshire's first newspaper

New Jersey

A glance back in time: life in colonial New Jersey (1704-70) as depicted in news accounts

New York

Marriages in New Lebanon, performed by Rev. Silas Churchill, 1795-1821 and Ira Hand, Esq., Justice of the Peace, 1832-1852
New York state censuses & substitutes
Quaker crosscurrents: three hundred years of Friends in the New York yearly Meetings

Ohio

Lest we forget: Sixty-plus unique Summit County, cemeteries: their stories and existing records
Memories of Tallmadge: recalling our past, celebrating our Bicentennial (1807-2007)
Springfield Lake: the part, the waters and the township
Walks around Akron: rediscovering a city in transition

Pennsylvania

100 years at Warrington: York County, Quakers: marriages, removals, births and deaths
Bethel United Presbyterian Cemetery: an alphabetical census with genealogical data: North Beaver Township, Lawrence County
Cemetery records of Cambria and Somerset counties
Indiana County rural directory, 1940-1941
Till death do us part: marriages from Indiana County newspapers, 1880 thru 1890

Tennessee

Davidson County, marriage index, 1731-1872

Vermont

Marriages in Pownal, Vermont to 1850

Virginia

A history of the First United Methodist Church of Lynchburg, 1828-1988, with genealogical index and descriptions of the church archives

West Virginia
Tyler County, WV, marriages, 1932-1970 [2 vols.]

United States
Memory trees: family trees for the scrapbooker
Dictionary of American family names, 3 vols.

Military
British and German deserters, dischargees and prisoners of war who may have remained in Canada and the United States, 1774-1783
Liberty march: the battle of Oriskany
Military service records at the National Archives

Native Americans
Cherokee reserve letters, 1828-1840
Cherokee by blood: records of Eastern Cherokee ancestry in the U.S. Court of Claims,1906-1910: Volume 9, Applications 23801-27800
Indian wills, 1911-1921: records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs
Indians and intruders, vol. 5
Rejected applications of the Guion Miller roll of the Eastern Cherokee Nation. Vols. 2 & 3

England
More emigrants in bondage, 1614-1775

Germany
Alsace-Lorraine place name indexes
Baden place name indexes
Bavaria place name indexes
Brandenburg place name indexes
Braunschweig, Oldenburg & Thuringia place names
Deciphering handwriting in German documents
East Prussia place name indexes
Hanover place names indexes
Hesse place names indexes
Hesse-Nassau place names indexes
Kingdom of Saxony place names indexes
Map guide to German parish registers: Kingdom of Prussia: Province of Hessen-Nassau,
Map guide to German parish registers: Kingdom of Prussia, Province of Rhineland, Kingdom of Bavaria: Palatinate (Pfalz)
Map guide to German parish registers: Kingdom of Wurttemberg: Donaukreis
Map guide to German parish registers: Kingdom of Wurttemberg: Jagstkreis
Map guide to German parish registers: Kingdom of Wurttemberg: Neckarkreis & Hohenzollern Province
Map guide to German parish registers: Kingdom of Wurttemberg: Schwarzwaldkreis
Mecklenberg place names indexes
Nineteenth-century Germans to America: a consolidation of six pamphlets identifying emigrants from Baden-Wurttemburg, Hamburg, Bremen, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Rheinland-Pfglaz and Schleswig-Holstein
Palatinate place names indexes
Pomerania place names indexes
Posen place name indexes
Province of Saxony place names indexes
Reconstructed passenger lists for 1850: Hamburg to Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile and the US
Rhineland place name indexes
Schleswig-Holstein place names indexes
Silesia place names indexes
Spelling variations in German names
West Prussia place names indexes
Westphalia place names indexes (Hohenzollern, Lippe, Schaumnerg)
Wurttemberg place names indexes

Ireland
Finding your Irish ancestors: a beginner's guide

Quakers
Scottish Quakers and early America: 1650-1700

Passenger Lists
Germans to America and The Hamburg Passenger Lists: coordinated schedules
Transatlantic voyages, 1600-1699

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Have a good story to tell?

Visit our Summit County Myths Wiki to add your favorite myth, legend, or rumor. If you don't have a good story to add – comment on one that is already there. Do you remember when the Corsairs were being built in Akron? Have your heard the rumor about Test Pilot Mike Kelly flying one through the Goodyear Airdock? If so, please comment on that myth in the wiki. See our corsair page at http://summitcountymyths.pbwiki.com/Corsair for the details.

You are our best resource for this fascinating aspect of local history. Share the tall tales you heard from your parents or the rumors from your youth with the whole community. Visit http://summitcountymyths.pbwiki.com/ and contribute today.